

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended herein to correct these matters. Thus, all of the claims are now submitted to be proper under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 2-10 have also been amended to refer to one lettered "step" in the singular (*i.e.*, "step (c)" and "step (d)" rather than "steps (c)" and "steps (d)").

The claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 under various combinations of prior art, specifically:

1. Claim 1 stands rejected over Howie Jr. U.S. Patent No. 4,608,882 ("Howie, Jr. '882") in view of Howie, Jr. U.S. Patent No. 6,242,064 ("Howie Jr. '064").
2. Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 stand rejected over Howie, Jr. '064 in view of Dronberger U.S. Patent No. 3,410,247 ("Dronberger '247")
3. Claims 1, 2 and 5 stand rejected over Smith U.S. Patent No. 2,632,540 ("Smith '540") in view of Howie, Jr. '064, with claims 3, 4 and 6-10 rejected in further view of Dronberger '247.

Applicant respectfully submits that no proper combination of the references teaches or suggests, explicitly or implicitly, the invention set forth in the claims as amended herein. Specifically, none of the references relied upon teach a cup shaped member which fits over a center hub and extends around the outside of the center hub to define both the end surface and the external surface of the unit.

In Howie, Jr. '882, the knob is assembled so that the external wall of the knob is defined by the outer sleeve 15 of the main body 13. The metal "end cap" 43 is just that, a cap on the end, with its radially extending portion (depending skirt 45) located inside the outer sleeve 15. Therefore, it will not present a metal outer surface, but instead will have a metal end cap surrounded by a tubular surface of the same material as the main body 13.

In Howie, Jr. '064, the knob is assembled so that the cover 31 defines only a portion of the end surface of the knob, with the external wall of the knob, as well as a portion of the end surface of the knob, being defined by the peripheral skirt or wall 31. Therefore, it too will have surrounding outer surface defined not by the material of the cover 31 but by the material of the skirt 31. Smith '540 similarly discloses assembly of a knob in which a plate 35 is provided on only a portion of its end, with the outer periphery 29 (Fig. 2) defined by an outer rim of the hub 26.

Finally, Dronberger '247 discloses assembly of a knob which includes an outer periphery defined by an indicator portion 12, simply to use a universal base 10 with different applications where, for example, different colors and/or indications may be desired on the knob depending on its intended use. The indicator portion 12 does not cover the end of the base 10. Moreover, while Dronberger '247 specifically indicates that the base 10 may be plastic or cast metal, it is clear from the design of the indicator portion tabs 28 must be of an elastically flexible material such as plastic.

As presented herein, claim 1 now recites a method in which, *inter alia*, a polymeric body is molded "with a boss having an end face and having a recessed external

wall extending between the end face and a floor”, and a metal cup is fit over the boss so that the cup skirt (which is “adapted to encompass the external wall of the boss when the metal cup fits over the boss”) “encompasses the external wall of the boss and defines the outer face of said knob between said circular plate and said floor”. The skirt is also recited as being “unitary with the [cup] circular plate . . . [which is] adapted to cover the end face of the boss when the metal cup fits over the boss”.

As detailed above, none of the references in any way teach fitting a metal cup over a hub so that the skirt of the cup defines the outer face of the knob. Such an assembly is advantageous in allowing for the appearance of a metal knob without requiring that the knob be manufactured completely of metal.

For the above reasons, independent claim 1, and claims 2-10 variously depending therefrom, are all believed to be allowable.

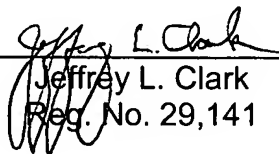
It is also respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 7 are additionally patentable in that the recited “unitary tab [having] a barbed portion, which coacts with the polymeric body” are also neither disclosed nor suggested by the references. Specifically, no barbs are shown in the references for securing the disclosed covers to the hubs. Moreover, such barbs are particularly advantageous with the present invention, inasmuch as the strength desired for suitable barbs may be provided by the metal of the recited cup, and the polymeric material of the recited body cooperates well with metal barbs to retain the cup and body together as desired.

In view of the above, all of pending claims 1-10 are submitted to be allowable.

Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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